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## MAY 2017

### EADTU NEWS



**The Online, Open and Flexible Higher Education Conference 2017 (OOFHEC2017)**  
**Higher Education for the Future; Accelerating and strengthening Innovation'**

Hosted by the open University Milton Keynes, OUUK.

**Call for abstracts extended until 1 June 2017**

More information at the [EADTU conference website](#)

OOFHEC2017 **Social Networking event: London Highlights** on Friday 27 October 2017.

#### EMPOWER publication



The Envisioning Report for  
Empowering Universities  
1<sup>st</sup> edition

We are proud to announce the first [Envisioning Report for Empowering Universities](#) in the uptake of new modes of teaching and learning.

This is a report by the expert pools of the [EMPOWER programme](#) established by EADTU to cover the latest trends and developments in new modes of teaching. New modes of teaching and learning create new opportunities for enhancing the quality of the learning experience in on campus programmes, reaching out

to new target groups off campus and offering freely accessible courses nationally or worldwide through the internet. They enhance the quality, visibility and reputation of the institution.

We hope this first edition of the EMPOWER Envisioning Report is an inspiration for many to further innovate education and start cooperation and sharing of expertise with fellow innovators.

### [Get publication](#)

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#### **EMPOWER on-site**

EMPOWER on-site is offering collaboration between EMPOWER experts and experts from the hosting universities. This to accelerate the adoption of new modes of teaching and learning.



On 17 & 18 May Eric Kluijfhout (OUNL), Mark Brown (DCU) and Piet Henderikx (EADTU) visited Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences for an EMPOWER on-site session. The aim of this EMPOWER on-site visit was to map the current state of use of flexible teaching methods and to discuss the ambitions and strategies of Frankfurt UAS in the field of online education development in the context of the experience gained at other universities in Europe.

The next EMPOWER on-site visit will take place at The University of West Bohemia (Czech Republic).

### [More information](#)

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#### **EADTU-EU Summit 2017**



On 25 April the EADTU-EU Summit on 'Innovations in teaching and learning; new directions for higher education' was organised to bring together stakeholders in Higher Education (HE). The Summit was attended by participants from the European Commission, members of the European Parliament, members of the national delegations for the EU, university networks and other stakeholders (enterprises, social partners). The main topics addressed were:

- New approaches in Short Learning Programmes,
- EMPOWERING universities in the uptake of new modes of teaching and learning
- Supporting European Open education and MOOCS
- Improving education by learning analytics
- Quality assurance and accreditation of online and blended

education

On behalf of the European Commission, Deputy head of unit of Higher education Vanessa DEBIAIS-SAINTON attended our 5th EADTU-EU Summit and took part in the closing panel session.

Please find Summit Conclusions [here](#).

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### Task Force Short Learning Programmes

Working students are increasingly looking for short learning programs (SLPs), leading to an award, certificate or diploma, which they eventually can valorise at a later stage in a bachelor or master degree. In 2016, EADTU members already have signed a Memorandum of Understanding on short learning programs in order to accelerate the development of SLPs to serve better the needs of the economy and society at large.



On the 24th of April, EADTU has held its 2nd SLP task force meeting. Focus of the meeting was the setting the features of short learning programme, making inventory of existing SLP`s, sharing current practices on recognition. EADTU`s SLPs typically are online short courses, leading to qualifications fit to the European Qualification Framework. SLPs have an academic nature, based on up-to-date results in research and innovation. Quality assurance will be organized by the partners according to national requirements. This fits to the changing demand in a rapidly changing job market, in which people need to be trained for new jobs. SLPs offered by distance teaching universities clearly contribute to the flexibility and responsiveness needed.

Next step will be the collaboration within EADTU towards a full operational EADTU framework and website.

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### ENQA-EQTel

ENQA is currently involved as a partner in the Tempus project “Enhancing Quality of Technology-Enhanced Learning at Jordanian Universities” (EQTeL) coordinated by Princess Sumaya University for Technology (PSUT), Jordan.



Professor Adel Twieisi, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, led a delegation consisted of the Presidents of Princess Sumaya university, Yarmouk University, Hashemite University and Al-Husseini Bi Tala University to ENQA on 16 May 2017. George Ubachs represented EADTU at this event and contributed by

introducing the E-xcellence instrument and reporting on the EADTU survey on accreditation of online education in Europe.

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### Deadline TRENDS 2018 survey extended to 5 June

The TRENDS reports series, which EUA publishes since 1999, aims at feeding an institutional perspective into European higher education policy discussions and supporting European institutions by providing data for identifying key issues and development perspectives.



TRENDS 2018 will, even more than its predecessor, focus on learning and teaching developments in European HEIs, by exploring issues such as institutional strategies and policies, institutional practice, staff development and teaching enhancement. The results of this survey will be published in the TRENDS 2018 report and will be submitted to the Bologna Ministerial Conference in Paris, May 2018.

We believe that the TRENDS reports will be of crucial importance in European and national policy contexts at large, and help identify opportunities for new projects and studies that will benefit the higher education community at large, particularly in the area of learning and teaching. Therefore, we would like to kindly ask you to [complete and submit the questionnaire](#).

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### Moroccan Ministry for Higher Education visits EADTU



Within the framework of the programme “Connecting Diaspora For Development” the Dutch international organisation for Migration visited EADTU offices in Maastricht with a delegation of the Moroccan Ministry for Higher Education and Research.

Main topic was the national strategy for enhancing education 2015–2030 by the use of new modes of teaching.



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Check recently added publications on [our website](#).

Short list:

- MOOC Quality: The Need for New Measures
  - NMC Horizon Report > 2017 Higher Education Edition
  - Open Education: International Perspectives in Higher Education
  - **Integration and Language Learning of Newly Arrived Migrants Using Mobile Technology**
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## MEMBER NEWS

### Revisoning Adult Higher Education Webinars

SUNY Empire State College's "Revisoning Adult Higher Education" webinar series will return on three Mondays in June with three internationally-known presenters. Everyone is invited to participate in these special, free webinars in which conversation around key issues, challenges and possibilities for adult higher education today are welcome.

For this particular series, the focus will be on issues of adult access to learning opportunities, the realities of diversity, and policies that shape adult learning participation.



All sessions will be held from noon to 1 p.m. Eastern time and will be offered in Blackboard Collaborate.

**June 5: Amy Rose**, professor emeritus, Northern Illinois University (Illinois).

**June 12: Patrick Werquin**, senior economist, Centre for Educational Research and Innovation, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (Paris).

**June 19: Liz Marr**, director of teaching, Learning and Teaching Innovation, The Open University (England).

[More information](#)

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### First University of Ljubljana's MOOC on FutureLearn

University of Ljubljana (UL) is a member of Partnership for advanced computing (PRACE) and a partner in EU-H2020 project PRACE-4IP. One of the main goals of this project is developing and running training courses in the area of High Performance Computing (HPC). Faculty of mechanical engineering from UL was selected to develop a Massive Online Open Course (MOOC) in the domain of HPC and Big Data. The 5-week MOOC started with April 3rd and currently there are approximately 3400 joiners and 1000 learners. Developing a MOOC turned out to be a very exciting challenge for all involved professors.



To view this page, join this free online course:

Managing Big Data with 5 and Hadoop  
Partnership for Advanced Computing in Europe (PRACE)

[Read more](#)

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UNINETTUNO is the only Italian distance university with positive evaluation by the Italian Agency for the Evaluation of the academic sector

UNINETTUNO is among the five best Universities, furthermore the only distance university that got the grade “B – fully satisfactory” by the evaluation of Italian Agency for the Evaluation of Universities and Research Institutes. The outcome gained testifies to the excellence of its teaching and organisational model, which is shared and acknowledged by both the International and the Italian scientific community and also to the flaws of the other Italian distance institutions in terms of teaching quality. Today, UNINETTUNO is the only distance university that passed the evaluation on quality. Students coming from 163 countries, a strong research activity and a unique didactic model evaluated with the grade “fully satisfactory” by the Italian Agency for Quality Assurance.

[More information](#)

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### Academics visiting OUC for lectures under Erasmus+

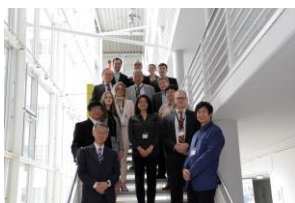


OUC welcomed 5 academics, all experts in their field, from May 8–12, 2017 for a series of lectures as part of OUC programmes' curriculum in various topics and subjects such as Environment, Education, Modern Greek, Economics and Entrepreneurship, Wireless Communication and IT, aiming to provoke discussion and debate. The lectures had been organised on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Erasmus+ programme and were funded under the mobility action 'Staff Teaching Assignments from/to Partner Countries'. OUC participates in the Erasmus+ programme since 2010, aiming to promote networking and exchanges of academic and administrative staff, researchers and students.

[Read more](#)

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### New Center for East Asian Macroeconomic Studies



The Center for East Asian Macroeconomic Studies (CEAMeS) at FernUniversität opened with an inauguration workshop. Helmut Wagner and Hans-Jörg Schmerer, Professors of Economics, were happy to welcome Dr. Markus Rodlauer from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and one of the leading experts on China.

The Center aims to establish an international network of researchers, bringing together experts on China, macro-

economists and trade-economists interested in East Asian economies. The Center will also create an online platform containing general information and references of the most recent academic work on East Asian macroeconomic studies. It will also host international guest researchers.

[More information](#)

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### **BalkanROAD: OUC in a new INTERREG project**

Open University of Cyprus is participating, along with six partners from four countries, in a new research project entitled “Towards farms with zero carbon-, waste- and water-footprint. Roadmap for sustainable management strategies for Balkan agricultural” (acronym “BalkanROAD”). The project is funded under INTERREG Balkan-Mediterranean 2014-2020 and aims to:

- improve Balkan agricultural environment by developing strategies, methodologies and technologies for natural resources conservation.
- develop a common Balkan Protocol for the production of eco-labeled agricultural products.

Head researcher for OUC is Antonis Zorpas, Academic Coordinator of the MSc “Environmental Conservation and Management” and coordinator of the Chemical Engineering and Engineering Sustainability Lab.

[Read more](#)

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### **OER Hub leads on Open Textbook project**

The Hewlett Foundation has provided funding for a research project which will be led by [OER Hub](#) at The Open University (UK). The focus of the work will be the use of open textbooks in the UK.



Open textbooks have seen impressive growth and impact in the North American context, through providers and initiatives such as OpenStax, Open Textbook Network, BC Campus, and Lumen Learning. Students and institutions have saved many millions of pounds. With the exception of Siyavula in South Africa however, the open textbook model has largely been restricted to the USA and Canada. The aim of this project is to test the transferability of this model to the context of UK higher education, and we will be working with OpenStax, Open Textbook Network and a range of education and technology specialists in the UK over the next year.

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## EVENTS 2017

- EMOOCs 2017: 22–26 May 2017, Madrid (Spain)
- LELLE Regional Conference on "Learning to Learn: Beyond 2020!": 1 June 2017, Heerlen (The Netherlands)
- World Learning Summit 2017: 7–9 June 2017, Kristiansand (Norway)
- OEB MidSummit conference: 8–9 June 2017, Reykjavik (Iceland)
- 26th EDEN annual conference: 13–16 June 2017, Jönköping (Sweden)
- The 2nd International Conference on Smart Learning Ecosystems and Regional Development: 22–23 June 2017, Aveiro (Portugal)
- DisCo: 26–27 June 2017, Prague (Czech Republic)
- Journalism, Society and Politics in the Digital Media Era: 1–3 September 2017, Limassol (Cyprus)
- 2nd World OER Congress: 18–20 September 2017, Ljubljana (Slovenia)
- ICDE2017: 17–19 October 2017, Toronto (Canada)
- EADTU OOFHEC2017: 25–27 October 2017, Milton Keynes (UK)
- OEB 2017: 6–8 December 2017, Berlin (Germany)

### LELLE Regional Conference on "Learning to Learn: Beyond 2020!"

1st June, 2017 – 09:30 to 16:30

Pretoria building, Open University of the Netherlands, Heerlen



The aim of the conference is to share and learn about on-going challenges as well as the huge potential in the changing educational landscape and the global workplace of the future. The conference hopes to empower all who are involved in education and the workplace with inspiration and tools to stay relevant in the 21st century. The [conference programme](#) features a 2-hour plenary session in the morning on "Bridging Gaps between the School and the Workplace" and three workshop sessions on "Rethinking Education in the Changing World" in the afternoon.

[More information / register](#)



### World Learning Summit 2017

The final programme for the World Learning Summit 2017 is published.

Save your seat and register now!

[Read more](#)



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EADTU | Parkweg 27 | 6212 XN Maastricht | The Netherlands  
Tel. +31 (0)43 311 87 12 | [secretariat@eadtu.eu](mailto:secretariat@eadtu.eu) | [www.eadt.eu](http://www.eadt.eu)